Statement

State-wise number of rural and semi-urban *centres allotted by Reserve Bank of India to commercial banks including Regional* ***Rural Banks up to 31.1.1989.***

State/ Union Territory	No. of centres allotted
Andhra Pradesh	388
Arunachal Pradesh	29
Assam	260
Bihar	385
Gujarat	244
Goa	6
Haryana	128
Himachal Pradesh	163
Jammu & Kashmir	36
Karnataka	252
Kerala	74
Madhya Pradesh	486
Maharashtra	512
Manipur	20
Meghalaya	26
Mizoram	35
Nagaland	18
Orissa	183
Punjab	117
Rajasthan	239
Sikkim	7
Tamil Nadu	256
Tripura	35
Uttar Pradesh	927
West Bengal	519
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Delhi	1
Lakshadweep	3
Pondicherry	1
TOTAL	5359

Rubber plantation in Orissa

261. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate areas in different parts of Orissa which have been brought under the Rubber Plantation so far;

(b) the year since when Rubber Plantation was started in Orissa and the result yielded, if any;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to bring additional hectares of land under Rubber Plantation in that State; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) About 180 hectares of land has been brought under rubber cultivation in different areas of Orissa so far.

(b) While trial plantations were started in 1966, the commercial cultivation started from 1984. The Growth performance is quite satisfactory though production has not so far started.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, Rubber cultivation is being promoted in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Denkanal, Cuttack, Puri and Ganjam. A Zonal office of the Rubber Board was set up in Bhubaneshwar and regional offices have been set up at Behrampur and Baripada. The rubber growers in Orissa are being given financial assistance under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme which include cash subsidy, interest subsidy, additional assistance for use of planting material of advanced growth raised in polybags etc.

Development of handicrafts

262. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on the development of handicrafts during the Seventh plan period so far;

(b) the various steps taken by Government for the development of handicrafts;

(c) the incentives being given to the rural artisans to promote handicrafts; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The total amount spent on the development of handicrafts during the Seventh Plan period, from 1985-86 to 1988-89 (up to January, 1989) is Rs. 3872.10 lakhs.

(b) The major steps taken by the Government in the handicrafts sector are:—

(i) imparting of training in various crafts.
(ii) technical assistance in the shape of design development.
(iii) financial & marketing assistance.
(iv) supply of raw materials.
(v) popularisation of handicrafts through exhibitions & publicity.
(vi) promotion of exports in handicrafts, through Councils, one for the handicrafts and the other for Carpets.
(vii) preservation of traditional crafts in National Handicrafts and Handloom Museum at New Delhi.
(viii) encouragement of the artisans through National Awards and pension to craft-persons in old age and infirmity.

(c) and (d) the following incentives are given to the rural artisans:—

(i) training in various crafts to the artisans.
(ii) supply of design inputs.
(iii) financial and marketing assistance.
(iv) supply of raw materials through Government Depots at reasonable prices.
(v) Presidential Awards to outstanding Master crafts persons.

Erosion of coastal area

263. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Sea coasts particularly near the major sea ports being affected by sea erosion;

(b) the percentage of coastal area facing sea erosion; and

(c) the details of centrally sponsored scheme to check sea erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) These are (i) Paradeep Port in Orissa, (ii) Vishakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh, (iii) Madras Port in Tamil Nadu; and (iv) New Mangalore Port in Karnataka.

(b) Nearly 85% of the coastline in Kerala and 26% in Karnataka is reported to be affected by sea erosion. The problem in other coastal States is not appreciable and occurs in isolated patches.

(c) There is no Centrally sponsored scheme to check sea erosion, but some assistance has been extended to Kerala.

Review of Export Credit Guarantee and Insurance for Promotion of Exports

264. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has recommended for a thorough review of export credit guarantee and insurance for promotion of exports; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what are their other recommendations;

(b) whether Government will reconsider the scope of and support to the ECGC in respect of export credit insurance; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the alternatives available with Government to finance and operate a State owned Institution like ECGC and whether Government are satisfied with the present set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has stated in a proposal submitted to Government that there is need to